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AFTERNOON OF AN AUTHOR

First published in a limited edition by the Princeton Library in 1957, this selection of twenty uncollected stories and essays is now available in a trade edition (Scribner's, 226 p., $4.50). AOAA is a splendid volume, and one can only salute the Friends of the Princeton Library and the House of Scribner's. The plain, sad fact is that much fine F is inaccessible to readers who don't have the use of a really good library. The stories are probably the most neglected body of work by a major American author.

It is interesting to consider that for no other American could twenty pieces of such high quality be rescued from limbo. Probably the finest thing in AOAA is "One Trip Abroad" (1930), an exciting anticipation of TITN—the woman is even named Nicole. But the most disturbing things are three Basil Duke Lee stories—"A Night at the Fair" (1928), "Forging Ahead" (1929), "Basil and Cleopatra" (1929)—and three Pat Hobby stories of 1940—"Boil Some Water—Lots of it," "Teamed with Genius," "No Harm Trying." What is disturbing is that the Basil and Pat stories are not yet all available in single volumes. The nine Basil stories—five in TAR, three here, and one in PULC—particularly merit attention, for they constitute a neat episodic novel.

Of the essays included in AOAA, the most welcome is "How to Waste Material: A Note on My Generation" (1926), F's enthusiastic review of IN OUR TIME—an article which shows how penetrating a critic F could be. A pair of autobiographical essays in the mood of CU are also high-grade work: "Afternoon of an Author" and "Author's Home," both 1936.

CABELL ON F

". . . young Scott Fitzgerald revealed to us, in THIS SIDE OF PARADISE, that at twenty he already knew as much about the depravities of the idle rich as if he had been a revivalist clergyman or was approaching fifteen" (Cabell's Foreword to F. J. Brewer's JAMES BRANCH CABELL: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, 1957).

Sheilah Graham's BELOVED INFIDEL has been announced by Holt for spring publication—but they haven't said when. The book will include recollections of F's Hollywood days. Fox has announced that a film will be produced by Jerry (Peyton Place) Wald this summer. The odds favor a vulgar carnival of misrepresentation.

Princeton scutlebutt has it that Henry Dan Piper's eagerly awaited book on F is nearing publication.

CHECKLIST

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Hindus, Milton. "The Mysterious Eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg," BUSE, III (Spring 1957), 23-31.

Raleigh, J. H. "F's GG: Legendary Bases and Allegorical Significance," UKCR, XXIII (Summer 1957), 283-291.

Schoenwald, R. "FSF as John Keats," BUSE, III (Spring 1957), 12-21.

Stewart, L. D. "Scott Fitzgerald D'Invilliers," AL, XXIX (May 1957), 212-213.

Thale, Jerome. "The Narrator as Hero," TCL, III (July 1957), 69-73.

Forthcoming—Stanton, Robert. " 'Daddy's Girl': Symbol and Theme in TITN," MFS.

Dissertation Completed—McCall, R. G. "Attitudes Toward Wealth in Dreiser, Wharton, and F," Wisconsin, 1957.

Research in Progress—Kuehl, J. R. "The Art of F," Columbia.

COLLECTOR'S NOTE

The first impression of GG can be spotted by "sick in tired of it" on p. 205.

The FN is intended as an organ in which Fitzgerald buffs can exchange information. It will probably be issued quarterly, and each number is to include a checklist of publication. The editor invites interested readers to contribute news and brief notes.

To take a look ahead, the FN plans to expand into something large enough to be called FITZGERALD STUDIES.

Editor
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